

## COLUMBIAN RECALLS MASSACRE OF 1864

Stewart a Member of Anderson's Band That Killed  
Federals at Centralia.

WAS 15 YEARS OLD  
Tells How Discharged Soldiers  
Were Slain 55 Years  
Ago Today.

Today marks the fifty-fifth anniversary of the Centralia massacre and of the battle which followed it, said by some historians to be the bloodiest battle of the Civil War.

"Bill" Stewart, at that time only 15 years old and the youngest of Quantrell's men, after traveling far from the scene of his Civil War activities has returned to Columbia recently to make his home on Gordon street. Stewart is one of possibly two or three living men who were under Quantrell the day of the massacre at Centralia.

"Bill" Anderson was the organizer of the band. Anderson started fighting the Federals after his mother and sisters had been killed by Northern soldiers. According to Stewart, the Anderson women were shut up in a log house, and the house knocked over on their heads.

### Organizes Famous Band.

After the fight at Gosline's Lane on September 23, Anderson organized a band of 400 guerrillas. George Todd and John Thraikill came with seventy-five men from Howard County. The Rev. Tom Todd and Si Gordon brought small bands of men to the gang. The James boys were among the members of the band, led by Quantrell.

The band marched to Randolph County where they attacked Allen and his Union forces. Defeating them, the guerrillas sacked a station where Moberly now stands and went to Monroe County, then returning to Centralia.

"The biggest fight we ever had was at Centralia," Stewart says.

### Centralia Is Taken.

It was just about 10 o'clock on the morning of September 27, fifty-five years ago, that the band entered the village of Centralia, then composed of about a dozen houses, including two small hotels, two general stores, a school house and a depot.

As they approached, the citizens fled shouting, "The guerrillas are coming."

Anderson went direct to the Eldorado House, one of the hotels, where he began talking to the proprietor and Vol Collier. Dr. A. F. Sneed approached the hotel and was introduced to Anderson by Collier.

"This is a fine location, doctor—a pretty place for a fight. If those Feds up at Sturgeon will come down I will give them a twist today."

During this conversation one of the band led away Sneed's horse. Anderson sent him after it with the instruction to tell the thief the captain said to return it. Hardly off of the veranda,

Doctor Sneed was robbed of his pocketbook and valuables. Later he answered several times to the cry of "Hands up" with "You are too late—somebody beat you to my money."

### Columbians Arrive by Stage.

The Columbia stage arrived at 11 o'clock. It was an old-fashioned Gordon, drawn by four horses. The stage driver, Joe Kelley of Columbia, had been warned of the guerrillas before reaching Centralia but insisted on continuing with the mail. In the coach were James H. Waugh, sheriff of Boone County, John M. Samuel, a former sheriff, James S. Rollins, congressional representative from this district, then on his way to a district convention, Henry Keene, Boyie Gordon, Lewis Sharp, Columbus Hickam and Lafayette Hume.

The passengers were questioned and then robbed. The arrival of the train at 11:30 o'clock from St. Louis prevented a thorough search of Rollins and Sheriff Waugh, which would have led to their death or being held prisoners had their identity been detected.

The engineer, seeing the mob, tried to run the train through the town, but ties were thrown in front of the engine and the fireman badly wounded. Besides the railroad men there were twenty-three federal soldiers on the train, all of them just discharged and 125 passengers. None of them were armed.

### Soldier's Clothing Is Taken.

The passengers were badly mistreated and robbed by the guerrillas. The safe in the express car was looted of \$3,000. Frank James founded boxes that were reported to have contained \$10,000 in greenbacks. This they divided.

Discovering the Union soldiers the band took them, and a German citizen of St. Louis, dressed in a blue uniform, and stripped them of their clothing. A sergeant was held hostage for the exchange of a member of Quantrell's gang, then held by the federals. The others were lined up at the side of the North Missouri railroad depot.

"Arch, when I give the word, pour hell into them," Anderson instructed Arch Clements. The word was given and twenty-four shots rang out.

Only twelve Unionists fell as the guerrillas fired the first volley from a distance of twelve paces. The others, all wounded, staggered about until shot down. On husky sergeant, shot five times through the body, staggered to the side of the depot with blood pouring from his body and crawled under the platform, only to be dragged out later and killed before the band quit its work.

### All Coaches Afire as Train Starts.

The other passengers made their way the best they could to Centralia. The engine of the train was started with all the coaches set afire down the track, the engineer jumping before it left the railroad yards.

The guerrillas withdrew to Col. M. G. Singleton's farm, three miles south of Centralia, after firing the depot.

During the afternoon, Major Johnson, with 175 men of the Thirty-Ninth Regiment, Missouri Volunteers, marched into the town. Hearing of the outrages of the morning the major march-

ed to the camp of the guerrillas determined to secure revenge for their action. The battle is described by Stewart, youngest of Quantrell's men, as follows:

"We let the federals know that we were there and they came under Johnson to clean us up. We were on the Prairies near Columbia. When Johnson and his men came through Centralia the citizens warned him not to continue.

"But he brought his men down there, and we killed the most of them. That was because we were armed so much better than the federals. Each of us had from six to eight pistols, while the Union soldiers carried only powder and ball muskets.

### Men Shot and Buried, Horses Taken.

"Two-thirds of the Federals were shot through the head. The last man killed was shot by Frank James. We could have gotten him sooner, but he was on the best horse and we were afraid that we would kill it too. We took all of the horses we wanted, leaving the others there. We couldn't sell them, you know, because they were branded on the shoulder with 'U. S.'" After one volley the battle was a massacre. Only four or five of the federal escaped alive. Quantrell's gang suffered three killed, three badly wounded and several slightly wounded.

The bodies of the dead Union men were gathered up by the people of the village and taken to Centralia. A number were sent to Mexico, Mo., for burial, but seventy-nine were buried, unidentified, in a long trench in the eastern section of the village. Many years later the trench was reopened, and the remains taken to Jefferson City, where they were buried in one common grave in the National Cemetery.

In telling of other experiences while with Quantrell's band, Stewart said:

### Wounded Only Once.

"I was never really wounded but once. That was at Fayette. The federals shot my horse from under me, and I was thrown against the curb, my shoulder being hurt badly. They took me to the cellar under Maxwell's house and waited three or four days for me to die. When I didn't they took me to a cave on Salt Creek one night. I stayed there nine weeks. My bed was a horse blanket.

"When I was thrown from the horse my shoulder was dislocated. It was set by Maggie and Lucy Maxwell, both of them about 17 or 18 years old then. I remember one of them putting her foot against my body and pulling my arm into place. They were the only physicians I had. Every night they brought us food.

"We got all of our provisions from the people who lived around this section of the country. Usually when we went in to eat we would station guards outside to warn us in case of an attack. But once we forgot to leave a guard.

### Visit To His Girl Nearly Fatal.

"That happened nine miles north of Columbia at a farm owned by a Mr. Huffman. Eight of us were eating when the federals came. I was shot through the leg, but the wound didn't amount to much. None of the others was wounded. We all escaped.

"The Federals came upon me another time when I wasn't expecting them. That was at Tinner Hill. I was visiting my girl and was up an apple tree getting her some apples when they came. They shot at me, knocking me out of the tree. But I succeeded in escaping on my horse which was tied about 300 feet away.

"The way we operated was by disbanding when we decided to move into groups of two or four. Everyone was told the time and place of the next meeting. When we reorganized we would send a negro to tell the federals where we were located. They would come, and then we would have a little fight."

Mr. Stewart now has one of the eight pistols he carried during the campaign. Six of them he carried in his belt, the other two or either side of his saddle. He is a painter.

**Clarence Moss Home From Overseas.**  
Clarence Moss, son of D. D. Moss, returned today from Camp Taylor, Ky. He received his discharge a few days ago and is among the last Boone County boys to return from overseas duty. Mr. Moss was with the Second Engineers, First Division.

**Dean Loeb to Speak at Warrensburg.**  
Dean Isidor Loeb of the School of Business and Public Administration will lecture before the School of Citizenship in Warrensburg October 3 and 4.

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## SPORT

### Toss of a Coin Makes Stankowski Captain.

The toss of a new half dollar by Coach John F. Miller in Rothwell Gymnasium last night elected Anton Stankowski, all-Valley quarterback, captain of the 1919 Tiger football eleven. The vote at the end of a number of ballots stood Collins, three, Stankowski, three. The election lasted thirty minutes, much longer than the average Tiger voting continues, a choice usually being made on the first ballot. Coach Miller tried several ballots after the vote had become a three to three deadlock, to see if any member desired the change but the vote remained the same. Taking the six M men eligible to vote—Schroeder, end; Kolb, tackle; Viner, full; Edwards, half; Collins, half, and Stankowski, quarter, into the basketball court Coach Miller told them it would be necessary to flip and asked Collins to call the coin. As Miller threw it into the air "Bill" Collins, who has played with Stankowski through two seasons of Tiger football, called "heads," and when the coin hit the floor and rolled a group of men followed it around the floor. It rolled, it wavered, it seemed to stop, and turned over—tails! And Stankowski was declared elected by his teammates and coach.

Last night's election was held after a brief blackboard talk by Coach John Miller. Four of the men who took part in the election are backfield men, Schroeder and Kolb being line-men. Stankowski, Viner and Collins played together in 1915 and 1919—their most successful year together being the championship season of 1916 when the backfield of which they were the principal members played so important a part in the trouncing given Kansas on McCook Field.

### "Stan" Has Been an Officer in Uncle Sam's Army.

Stankowski is 24 years old and is from St. Joseph, Mo. At the entrance of American into the war "Stan" went to the first training camp at Fort Riley. He received his commission later and was stationed in this country. While in the army he played on the championship Funston team and kept

up his athletic work as much as possible. He returned to Columbia the first practice day on leave from his station in the army, and it was only last Saturday he received his discharge. "Stan" is 17 pounds heavier than he was when he made his all-Valley quarter place, his weight at that time being 140 pounds.

Collins is one of three brothers who have been identified with football at Missouri for a number of years, his elder brother "Clint" having starred before "Bill" became well known and the younger of the three, "Hersh" just now becoming a promising man on

(Continued on Page Four.)

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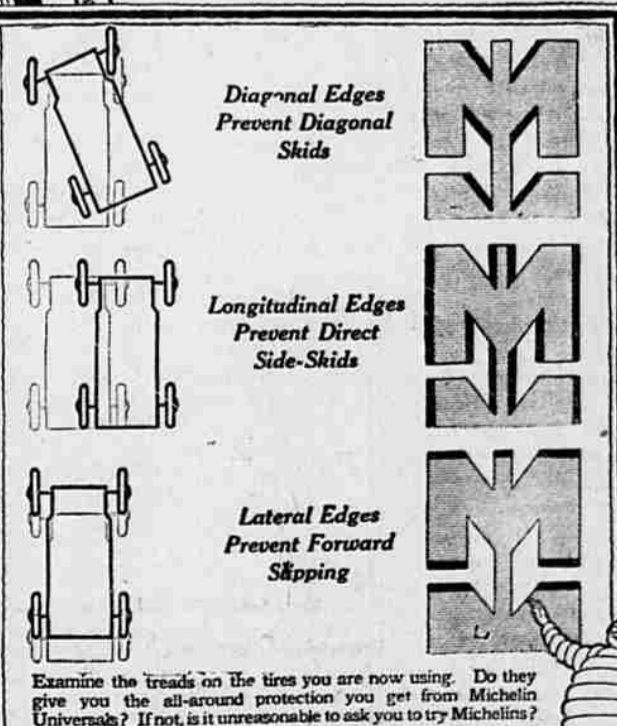
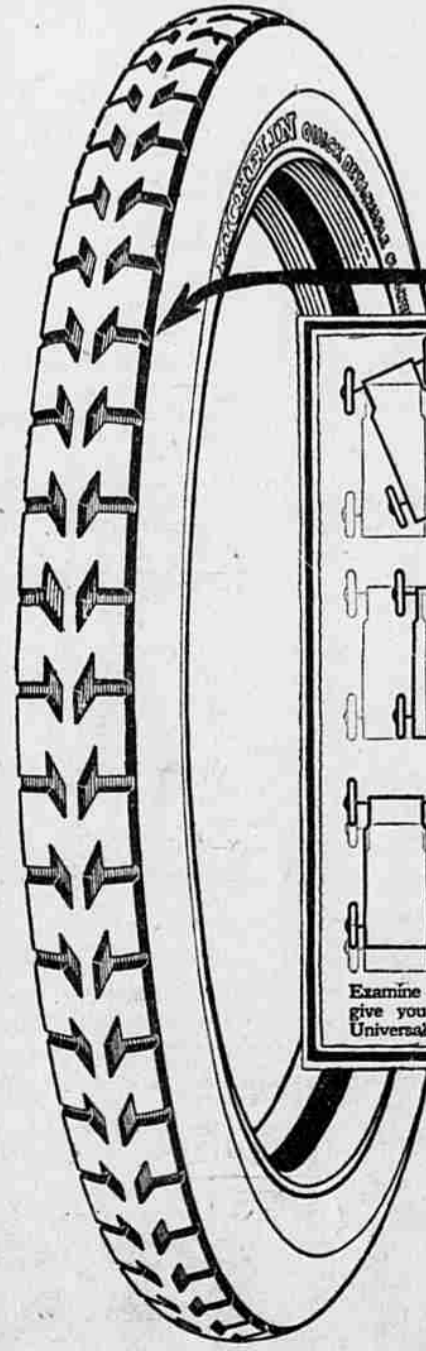
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